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IMMEDIATE DIRECTOR

FINAL SECTION OF 2

FOR MR. HELMS ONLY FROM MR. CARVER

ROLE, THEY INFLICT CASUALTIES ON ALLIED FORCES.

SECRET SELF-DEFENSE FORCES ARE AN ADDITIONAL ELEMENT WHICH OPERATE IN GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AND CONTESTED AREAS. THEY PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNIST EFFORT, PRIMARILY BY CLANDESTINE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND AS A RESIDUE OF THE COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN SUCH AREAS.

DURING THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE LEARNED MORE ABOUT A VC ORGANIZATION CALLED 'ASSAULT YOUTH'. THEY SERVE FULL-TIME AT DISTRICT LEVEL AND ABOVE, AND THEY ARE ORGANIZED INTO BATTALIONS, COMPANIES, AND PLATOONS. ALTHOUGH SOME ARE ARMED, THE COMMUNISTS DO NOT CONSIDER THEM AS A COMBAT FORCE; THEIR PRIMARY MISSION APPEARS TO BE A LOGISTICAL ONE, FREQUENTLY IN BATTLEFIELD AREAS. SOME OF THE CASUALTIES INFLICTED BY ALLIED FORCES IN BATTLE ARE SUSTAINED BY THE 'ASSAULT YOUTH'. THIS ORGANIZATION ALSO SERVES AS A MANPOWER POOL AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUTH WHO LATER GO

SECRETPAGE 2 SAIGON **S E C R E T**

INTO THE VC MAIN AND LOCAL FORCES. LITTLE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO INDICATE THE STRENGTH OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE "ASSAULT YOUTH".

OUR CURRENT EVIDENCE DOES NOT ENABLE US TO ESTIMATE THE PRESENT SIZE OF THESE GROUPS WITH ANY MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE. SOME DOCUMENTS SUGGEST THAT IN EARLY 1966 THE AGGREGATE SIZE OF THE SELF DEFENSE GROUP WAS THEN ON THE ORDER OF 150,000. THESE "IRREGULAR" COMPONENTS, HOWEVER, HAVE UNQUESTIONABLY SUFFERED ATTRITION SINCE THAT TIME, AS WELL AS AN APPRECIABLE DECLINE IN QUALITY, BECAUSE OF CASUALTIES, UPGRADING OF SOME OF THEIR MEMBERS INTO THE GUERRILLAS OR OTHER VC MILITARY COMPONENTS AND, PARTICULARLY, THE SHRINKAGE IN VC CONTROL OF POPULATED AREAS. THOUGH IN AGGREGATE NUMBERS THESE GROUPS ARE STILL LARGE, AND THEY STILL CONSTITUTE A PART OF THE OVERALL COMMUNIST EFFORT. THEY ARE NOT OFFENSIVE MILITARY FORCES AND SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE MILITARY ORDER OF BATTLE TOTAL, EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THEIR MEMBERS ARE PROBABLY INCLUDED IN OUR CASUALTY FIGURES AND THEY ACCOUNT FOR A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE CHIEU HOIS." END TEXT ATTACHMENT 2.

S E C R E T

BT

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SAIGON ☐ PARA 3
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PLEASE CORRECT THE GARBLED PORTION(S) OF THIS MESSAGE TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

"WE WOULD NEVER HAVE TO RETROACTIVELY ADJUST UPWARD AND THAT"

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